



Arizona Department of Education
Research and Evaluation
1535 West Jefferson, Mail Bin 16, Phoenix, Arizona 85007
602-542-5151 • FAX 602-364-0887

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators

FROM: Alphonse Damas, PhD, Director of Integrated Data Management, Research and Evaluation

DATE: February 28, 2006

SUBJECT: Closing of Graduation Rate Application
(REF: RE06001-E)

This memo is to inform you that the Graduation Rate Study Online Application will no longer be used to collect or modify graduation rate data. Starting this Fiscal Year 2006, data collected for Year End Enrollment through SAIS will be used to calculate all graduation rates.

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) has been working diligently to continue to improve its online computer tracking system, termed the Student Accountability Information System (SAIS). SAIS is currently fully operational and because of its ability to verify Year End status codes, this methodology produces a more efficient and accurate student tracking system. Consequently, the plan is for present and future activity rates, including graduation and dropout rate data to be collected using SAIS. Also, because schools and districts are currently required to submit student enrollment and transfer activities at several junctions during the school year, this requirement further allows SAIS to improve the accuracy of data significantly.

Though the data collection strategy has changed, the definition and calculation of the graduation rates will remain unchanged.

The Year End Enrollment data are used to compute student attrition and retention rates, which are part of the high school Achievement Profiles. A.R.S. 15-241.B states, "Each school shall submit to the department any data that are required and requested and that are necessary to compile the achievement profile. A school that fails to submit the information that is necessary is not eligible to receive monies from the classroom site fund established by §15-997."

Questions or Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns, please email them to gradrate@ade.az.gov